ISSUE 9 OCTOBER 1990

WRESTLING THEN & NOW

Evan Ginzburg-Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

It was our second date...

She was successful, beautiful and bright as hell. We were sitting around talking; I had just shown her an article I had published in Playbill (the Broadway theater magazine), and she was more than enthusiastic.

"Do you have any more of your writing to show me?"

For a second I didn't respond. I was very proud of the piece I had written on my late father in WT&N and was tempted to pull it out and hand it to her.

But it was about wrestling. And it was in a wrestling bulletin. And it was my bulletin. This was not a wrestling fan sitting next to me. Would she be turned off? Would she lose interest in me? I was truly torn.

And then I made a conscious decision. This bulletin **is** an important part of my life. It is something I love and take pride in. And enough people had told me they had been touched by the piece that I decided to chance it.

I handed her the issue and watched her as she read it.

"You write a wrestling newspaper?" she asked curiously.

""Yeah," I said uncomfortably.

She kept reading and I watched her gorgeous dark eyes scan the page. When she looked up they were misty. She reached over and touched my arm gently.

"That's so sad..." she said.

We sat there for quite a while, just holding hands and talking...

My father always told me that if you did hard, honest work, no matter what it was, you should **never** be ashamed.

I know how much of myself I put into this bulletin; I'll never feel that shame again...

WRESTLING-THEN & NOW is published monthly at $1.25 a copy. 6 issue subscriptions are available for $6. One year subscriptions are $12. Overseas add $1 an issue. **BACK ISSUES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT $1.25 EACH OR $1.00 WHEN BUYING MORE THAN ONE ISSUE.** Wrestling-Then & Now is copyright 1990 and no material may be reprinted without express written permission.

The bulletin that dares to be different is back for another nostalgic trip...welcome aboard Vic Stanley who will be an important addition to our ever-growing staff. Mike Rodgers is back, as is Rodney Leighton, Gary Fishman, Howard Feintuch, Ron Dobratz and Riot's Brian Tramel. There's a few surprises thrown in as well...enjoy...

I hate to waste precious space with a tired old sales pitch, but the reality of any publication is that there are expenses that need to be met. With 40 plus other bulletins out there to "compete" with, getting new subscribers is a constant struggle and sometimes we even lose a few. **Please** tell your friends and fellow fans to check us out...consider WT&N for gift subscriptions...let us know how you feel about the various features...most importantly, resubscribe & show your support!

Thanks to each and every one of you!

I'm thinking of giving up the sheets. Not that I don't enjoy the sheets, it's just that I don't enjoy wrestling as much as I did in the 70's & 80's. I think I don't enjoy wrestling as much, not just because Vince changed the game forever, but because I'm too criticical of the live and televised product. Ignorance was bliss. Now, because of the sheets, I'm too criticial.

I don't follow Dave Meltzer blindly. Formulating my own opinions, likes and dislikes is not a problem. The biggest kick I get out of the business is being a pseudo-insider, getting a chance to have lunch with Buddy Roberts or a brew with Simmons. It's not enough anymore. I want to enjoy wrestling again, not knowing I'm watching one of Beverly's Bomb Pluses, but appreciating the show anyway.

As a kid, I grew up with the AWA and Bruiser's WWA here in Chicago. We received the Minnesota TV tapings with localized interviews. WWA Indianapolis matches were surrounded by Bob Luce studio segments. In retrospect, the shows were probably awful, but I didn't read the sheets back then (did they exist?).

My friends and I thought Luce's studio angles were the greatest. A Volkswagen rolling over Pepper Gomez' stomach, 2 wrestlers (I think the late Tom DeMarco & Paul Perschman-a.k.a. Buddy Rose, not sure) jumping on Gomez' stomach from a ladder, HandsomeJimmy Valiant slugging Yukon Moose Cholak in the head with free weights in a weight lifting contest, these were just a few of the memorable studio angles. I can still remember Luce, leaning over Cholak, ala Vince over Hogan post Quake, screaming to the comatose Moose, "Moose, Moose, this is Luce!"

Very few angles impress me now. The NWA's Midnite/Midnite intro was great a few years ago. Piper-Snuka was fun. Maybe it's time to trade for Memphis tapes now that the Messiah has arrived.

We all realize that wrestling then and wrestling now cannot necessarily be critiqued by the same standards. Potshots' ARS would probably rate few as main-eventers, and need to be altered. Maybe it's unfair to blame the sheets; maybe I've grown up. Was wrestling simpler then, rather than now? Racial angles were prevalent, juice flowed freely, violence seemed more important then a competitive match.

Ole is wrong. Sullivan is wrong. Verne is wrong. I was wrong. The sheets are not to blame. The sheets are not responsible for my loss of interest. The sheets keep me from losing interest. The wrestling hierarchy, except for Vince, failed to see the face of the wrestling fan change, failed to see the faces of Americans change, how our values and mores have changed. Wrestling was simpler then because the fans were simpler then. Wrestling still has marks, but many of today's marks are kids. I want to enjoy wrestling again, but wrestling doesn't want me, the smart fan. I'm too criticial.

RAYMOND L. ASHER
Chicago, IL.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In all honesty, I don't think anything I was watching 15 years ago was better than the recent Flair-Steamboat or Flair-Funk matches & the tag teams back then couldn't touch the Midnite Express. Nonetheless I used to almost **always** walk out of the house shows happier whereas today I often feel like my pocket has been picked...any answers out there?—**E.G**

Thanks for Wrestling-Then & Now. Rodney Leighton does the wrestling reviews in my zine, Plain Brown Wrapper- which comes out every 3 months on floppy Disc-Macintosh-but I'm sure he'll have something to say about WT&N in his review section.

I go back to the mid 50's with wrestling from Hollywood & Vine with Baron Leoni and the Jr. Light Heavyweight champ, Wild Red Berry. I think I was a smart fan at 10- I get dumber as I grow older though- to the point where I think Dusty Rhodes is god- or at least Jupiter (there already is a Zeuss) complete with large red spot.

DICK FREEMAN
Yellow Springs, Ohio

READER PROFILE- BRIAN TRAMEL

Reading through the latest issue of WT&N I started thinking back to my first time at the matches.

The kids across the street were talking all day about going to "rasslin". I also being a kid of 11 years old, wanted to do what they were doing. A few "please moms" and "I'll be good til the end of times" and my mom agreed to take me with the other kids and their moms.

That night will live forever as the night I became a wrestling fan. For almost 4 years, my mom & I went to the matches together. Later on, when we were old enough to have cars and to drive, I went with them. But, I've got to thank my mom a lot for that night in August of 1978.

The matches that night in Blytheville, Arkansas were main evented by Jerry Lawler vs. John Louie. I don't remeber that match much, but do remember the opening bout. The wrestler walked out to wrestle Steve Kyle. He was decked out in high heel boots, black tights, and makeup. His face makeup was a combo of all four members of my all-time favorite band- Kiss. he was known as "The Kisser". He came to the bleachers where I sat, and believe me, he scared the shit out of me. I never saw that wrestler again. Well, I guess I didn't see him as "The Kisser," but later he was known as Wayne Ferris or The Honky Tonk Man.

NOSTALGIA FOCUS- 1974 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
BY: MIKE RODGERS

U.S. CHAMPION
Lonnie Mayne
Peter Maivia 10/74

WORLD TAG TITLE
Pat Patterson & Rocky Johnson
Von Brauners 3/74
Pat Patterson & P. Maivia 6/74

1974 Wrestler Of The Year
1.Lonnie Mayne (See notes below)
2.Peter Maivia
3.Pat Patterson
4.Rocky Johnson
5.Mighty Igor

1974 Tag Team Of The Year
1.Von Brauners (See notes below)
2.Pat Patterson & P. Maivia
3.Pat Patterson & Rocky Johnson
4.Raul Mata & Mr. Wrestling
5.Mighty Igor & Raul Reyes

LONNIE MAYNE held the US title for most of the year and defeated such people as Don Muraco, Peter Maivia, Pat Patterson, Rocky Johnson, Raul Reyes, Man Mountain Mike, Mighty Igor, and went to 2 very tough matches with NWA World Champion Jack Brisco.

THE VON BRAUNERS were tag team of the year as they held the world tag titles and captured wins over such teams as Pat Patterson & Peter Maivia, Rocky Johnson & Peter Maivia, Pat Patterson & Rocky Johnson, Don Muraco & Peter Maivia, Don Muraco & Pepper Martin among others.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: "Moondog" Lonnie Mayne ultimately died in a car accident--he was often imitated but nobody topped his madcap antics- i.e. swallowing live goldfish...Mike Rogers publishes a great regional bulletin--Rings Around The Northwest for only .50¢ from 2470 SE Lewellyn, Troutdale, Or. 97060--he also sells extensive computerized sheets detailing particular areas (i.e. 1980 Fla.) for $1 as well as having an extensive photo list!)

MIKE RODGERS & WT&N ARE DEDICATED TO PRESERVING WRESTLING HISTORY! JOIN US EACH MONTH!

RODLINES

From: RODNEY LEIGHTON, R.R.#3, PUGWASH, N.S., B0K 1L0

Next month this becomes primarily a review column. It ain't this month because: A; as of this writing, things haven't been coming in too rapidly; B; I haven't quite gotten over the malaise I have been inthis summer and C; and most important I shouldn't admit to this, but, well, I wrote last month's column and sent it off without making a copy and my usually better than average memory has failed me. I don't have a clue as to what I wrote in there and did not want to duplicate it. So, decided to go this route.

My good friend Evan has given me lots of leeway. Some of you know that I used to publish a reviewzine. May again, some day. For at least the next year, I am going to do columns for various publications. Everyone is invited to submit their materials to me for review; whether it be wrestling sheets; other zines; cassettes; tee shirts; caps (I did my dammedest to con a cap out of Ron Lemieux!) or original or bootleg video tapes or non wrestling items. Mention WT&N and you will appear in here. Also at least one other place. I currently have 4 definites and about 4 possibles and a couple of probables. Every item sent for review goes in at least two.

I should make something perfectly clear; I review items as I see them. It is solely and completely MY view (**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Hey Wade! Remember that when you get to the last paragraph--**E.G.**). I have a reputation for honesty which I cherish. This has cost me things in the past. So be it. If I like your stuff; it gets good reviews in many places. If it stinks, in my eyes--I say so.

Say, is this sheet getting to be something, or what? I mean -- we got Evan, who partakes of the joys of female anatomy rarely; we got the Fishman, who depends upon watching whatever cable station his lady likes (NOT that damned wrestling!!!); we got me, who would forget what naked females look like if it were not for my friend Greg who makes me up a tape of porn occasionally; we got Dan Reilly, who even has kids to prove his status; we got Harry White. What!!??!! WHOA!! What the hell is Harry doing with this bunch??? Ain't he one of the four Whoresmen?

I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of Chris Reilly's sheet. Hey, Greg Oliver retired at 19. Listen, kid--if you have half the smarts of yor dad, you'll be an instant hit.

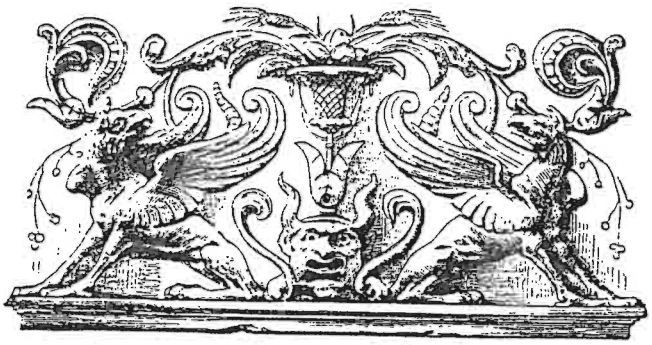
I know about Chris and his sheet via my good friend Jeff Mullins, who, of course, edits and publishes RWRB: Sushi, that beacon of wit and laughter. Jeff told us lots of things in the last couple of issues. I see Wade Keller has roped him into being part of a rip-off, "Please help me sell Annuals" campaign. Wade and Bill Kunkel have been doing this for years: Bill would run part of a comic strip in Angle or someplace else and at the end would be: "To be concluded in the forthcoming Torch Annual or Yearlbook." Pure rip-off; of course. Now, Jeff ran one of those things. Well, it won't bother me too much to not see the conclusion of the story of Oldie Anderson; but I wonder, how many Sushi readers, who can't afford the Annual or just plain don't want the thing, will be somewhat irritated?

CLASSIC QUOTES FROM THE PAST

BLACK GORDMAN (in Spanish, in reference to Ricky Romero)--- "Ricky Romero is going to go extinct like all the other Indians from Mexico.He's going to go extinct like the Aztecs, the Mayas, and the Incas. He had better eat all the chili peppers and Mexican food he can, because against me he is going to need all the energy he can."

CHRIS COLT--- "Shit!" (Evidently drunk before the match, he walked into the ring wearing his long black robe, opened it and realized he'd forgotten his trunks.)

FAN TO MAD DOG MARCIAL BOVEE (as he headed for the ring carrying a wooden plank)--- "What are you gonna do with that, idiot...start building a house!"



THE MYSTIQUE OF FANZINES-

by: VIC STANLEY

What happens when wrestling or film fans cannot get enough information on their favorite subjects in the print media? They put out their own fanzine. Hard core fans of any subject can easily become disillusioned with the way their avocations are covered in the mainstream media. However, with the introduction of home computers and desktop publishing, the fanzine has reached a new level of excellence. What was once a smudged 2 sheeter churned out on a mimeograph machine is now a slick, professionally designed publication. My two loves happen to be wrestling and bad "B" movies. Until I was introduced to fanzines, I found the coverage of these subjects very unsatisfactory. If it weren't for the independent fanzines, the real underbelly of these sordid subcultures would never be revealed to the hardcore fans.

Since Rodney Leighton is going to cover the vast array of wrestling fanzines, Evan has given me the opportunity to briefly cover our other favorite topic. I recently discovered that our distinguised editor is also a fan of the sleaze/gore/horror genre of cinema. These themes have been adequately covered in major magazines from the days of F.J. Ackerman's legendary Famous Monsters of Filmland to current titles such as Fangoria and Cinefantastique, but sometimes a sleazy topic benefits from sleazy coverage. I am much more thrilled to find the latest issue of "Gore Gazette" or "City Morgue" in my mailbox than Starlog's "Gorezone". GG editor Rick Sullivan has a knack for truth in journalism, even when the truth hurts. Fans of gore/horror films should use GG as a primary reference guide. There are also a few publications such as "We Are the Weird", "It's Only a Movie" and "Psychotronic Video Magazine" which have combined professional layout and design with irreverent hardcore fan attitude and a razor sharp sense of humor.

Recommended Cinematic Fanzines:

City Morgue- "A Bi Monthly Publication of Cinematic Scum" - 376 Hayes, Holland, Mi. 49424- Arpad Jasko publisher/editor- $10.00/6 issues or $1.50 for sample.

Gore Gazette- "Your Guide to Horror, Exploitation & Sleaze in the N.Y. Area" - 469 Hazel St., Clifton, NJ 07011 - Rick Sullivan publisher/editor - $1 per issue

It's Only a Movie! - "The Official Magazine of the Psychotronic Film Society" - POB 14683 Chicago, Il. - Michael Flores publisher/editor - $20.00/12 issues.

Psychotronic Video Magazine - 151 1st Ave. Dept PV New york, NY 10003 - Michael Weldon publisher/editor - $20/6 issues

We Are the Weird - POB 2002 Dallas, Tx 75221 - Joe Bob Briggs/ publisher - $1.50/issue

Factsheet Five - 6 Arizona Ave. Rensaelaer, NY 12144-4502 - Mike Gunderloy publisher/editor $21/6 issues for the definitive listing and description of every fanzine imaginable. Evan will concur that FF5 is mind-boggling. Enjoy!

IF I NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN IT'LL BE TOO SOON- BY EVAN GINZBURG

1. Hacksnore Jim Duggan
2. Canadian Dullman Dino Bravo
3. Jesse Helms
4. Earthquake
5. Bore-Us (To Death) Zukoff
6. Norman the Mediocrity
7. JYD
8. Super Dull Jones
9. Pat Sajak
10. Tugboat Torment
11. Tom Stink (uh, Zenk
12. Vince McMadman

WHEN WRESTLING MEETS REALITY

(**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following excerpt is from the superb book Sweet Soul Music by Peter Guralnick--probably the most in depth work I've ever read on the subject. Highest recommendation.)

"James (Brown) had picked up another wrinkle, this time from the realm of professional wrestling, to cap his stage act. "Please, Please, Please" always came at the climax of the show, as it had from the beginning of his career. "I used to sing Please, Please, Please for about 35 or 40 minutes (sometimes), so (one time) I went off and they threw a towel around me because I was singing so hard and sweating so much. And I came back with the towel around me and I started singing again, and I got real happy-you know, the spirit came up-and I stomped my foot and I threw the towel off and I sang until they took me off again. Then I came back and did it again. And I thought, well, Gorgeous George had a great act as a wrestler with his capes, so I think I'll make me some beautiful capes and I'll use the same thing." That is what he did, and it became the trademark of his act, a ritual drama of loss and redemption in which a weary James Brown, assailed with the cares, worries, and woes of the world, collapsed under the weight of his burdens, then somehow found the strength to go on. Everywhere he went it created pandemonium..."

GREATEST TAG MATCH EVER? BY HARRY WHITE

A debate could rage on ad infinitum about the best tag teams or the best tag match ever. A much shorter debate would be on the best five wrestlers ever involved in a tag match.

Tag team main events were a rarity in St. Louis but the one on May 21, 1976 belonged nowhere else but on top. NWA world champ Terry Funk and former champ Dory Funk were matched against former champ Jack Brisco and former champ Gene Kiniski. Naturally no normal ref could handle this foursome so former champ Pat O'Connor was put in charge of law and order. Having tried to regain his title from all four of them over the years, Pat was the logical choice to try and control them. Also on the undercard was former champ Harley Race who whined that he belonged in the tag but Jack Brisco refused Race as a partner because he could not be trusted. Harley was then matched against Jack's brother Jerry for revenge against the slight by Jack.

Jack and Gene were the faces for this match. Psychologists would have had a field day analyzing the crowd with the schizoid nature of all the personalities involved. Gene was primarily always a heel, Terry a tweener, and Jack and Dory bounced back and forth depending on whom they defended their belt against and how much they had to cheat to keep it. Dory won the first fall with an abdominal stretch on Jack. Jack won the second with the figure four on Terry. Kiniski won the last over Dory. Brisco had flattened Terry with an elbow when Dory lifted Kiniski for a body slam. Dory tripped over Terry and Kiniski was on top for the pin.

With Kiniski getting the final fall he got a title shot against Terry on the next card. Since they were both wild men Verne Gagne was borrowed from the AWA to be the special ref.

I doubt if five champs have ever been matched together. Even if the WWF could have had Backlund and Morales against Stan Stasiak and SuperStar Graham with Bruno as ref I doubt if the work rate would have been the same.

The match from 1976 not only had five world champs but five excellent athletes on most all time great lists.

SPOTLIGHT ON SHEIK ADNAN AL KAISSIE BY HOWARD FEINTUCH

Most fans of today know Sheik Adnan Al Kaissie as being at one time the top villainous manager of the AWA. At one time he was also one of the top wrestlers of the US wrestling scene, causing havoc wherever he wrestled. Before the Iron Sheik and the countless other middle easternvillains, there was Adnan Al Kaissie the young wrestler from Iraq, who had hope of achieving fame and success as a professional wrestler in the United States.

Al Kaissie had been an amateur wrestler for many years before he turned pro. He was the heavyweight champion of Baghdad for five years. In 1964 a young Adnan Al Kaissie made his pro debut in the US. During the course of his career he would face such greats as Lou Thesz and Pat O'Conner and take those two fine champions to the limit in several championship matches. During his early years in the U.S he spent a large majority of his time wrestling in Texas for the heavyweight championship. He also had a successful run in Portland where he won the heavyweight and tag team championships.

Over the years the Sheik has frequently battled many popular American stars. He disliked some more than others. "I didn't like Greg Gagne in particular. He was a pretty boy and thought he was tough and rugged. Dino Bravo and Jim Brunzell used to think the same thing. Many of these good guys, blue eyed, blonde haired Americans think they are great because people cheer them and they think they own the world. Some of them are tough, some are not" stated the Sheik. According to the Sheik the greatest wrestlers he ever managed were Jerry Blackwell and Ken Patera (at one time dubbed the Sheiks) who he led to the AWA tag team championships.

In recent months the Sheik Adnan was the number one villain manager of the LPWA, causing havoc once again at ringside but with the women wrestlers this time. He also wrestled for Pro Wrestling America, a solid independent promotion with a huge local following based out of Fridley, Minnesota. The Sheik is just one of the many reasons the PWA outdraws the AWA. Recently he battled it out with a huge indian wrestler (6'8 280) named Charlie Norris. The Sheik proved to be one of Norris' toughest challenges in the rings of the PWA. He also teamed with rising star "Lethal" Larry Cameron in several tag team matches. He was ranked as the No. 4 contender for Ricky Rice's PWA Championship. When Sheik Adnan Al Kaissie was asked if he had anything he would like to say to the readers of WRESTLING THEN AND NOW, he replied "Watch the Sheik and listen to my message on t.v." He also added "I wrestle more in the ring and work crowds. Wrestling is not bodybuilding. In my view fans should be presented with wrestling, not bodybuilding".

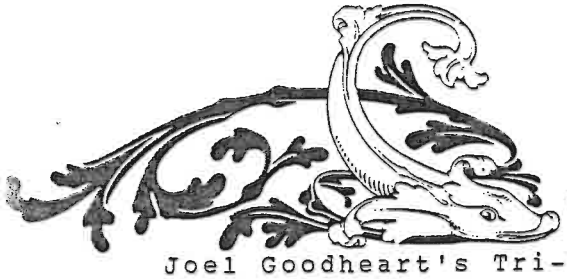
A twenty plus year veteran of the rings, the Sheik has always been controversial and colorful. Chances are the Sheik Adnan Al Kaissie will continue his reign of terror well into the 90's as both a wrestler and manager.

All Dialogue Guaranteed Overheard!

An exchange between a very irate **RAY STEVENS** and a fan:

FAN: "Fake! Fake!"
RAY STEVENS: "Come on into the ring with me you #@!$%. I'll show you how much of a faker I am."
FAN: "No, you come on out here and hit me. I can use the lawsuit money!"

NEXT ISSUE: A focus on the Detroit Area inthe 1970's--The Sheik, Dr. Jerry Graham, Lord Layton, Bulldog Brower & others: Vic Stanley begins an extended series on two wild and crazy hardcore fans who even ended up behind bars after a card!; Gary Fishman's offbeat humor; Rodney Leighton's reviews; many surprises...Turn a friend onto WT&N!!!



GARY FISHMAN'S COLUMN

Joel Goodheart's Tri-State Wrestling Alliance based in Philly is in my opinion the best in the country in terms of what the hardcore fan loves to see. Any promoter who in any given 3 hour time span can destroy an entire arena piece by piece is #1 in my book. Anyone who is planning a fan convention would be well advised to center it around one of Goodheart's major shows. The man lets the wrestlers loose which has become a thing of the past. Giving free reign to wrestlers like Jerry Lawler, Terry Funk, Abdullah the Butcher and Eddie Gilbert is like letting Scott Dickenson loose in a singles bar...Evan liked the card so much he almost forgot to check under the seats for free programs after the show...Speaking of Evan he promised to get me backstage after the show as he claimed to have top connections with the referee, the ring announcer, the promoter and one of the wrestlers. To make a long story short I never got my camera out of the bag as I stood outside the dressing room door for 30 minutes after the show watching every 5 year old in the arena running out with signed photos of the wrestlers...It was great seeing Adam Horowitz, editor of Between The Ropes, at a recent Meadowlands show. He proved the old saying that if you keep your old clothes long enough, eventually they'll come back in style again. All you readers should send him correspondence as he has become very lonely since self proclaimed co-editor Brad Burns moved away...

ENCOUNTERING THE STARS- ARIZONA/CALIFORNIA BY ANONYMOUS

SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM: Did some independent shows prior to his return to the WWF in the early 80's and was the biggest names the Indies had in a long time. (He also went under to local kingpin, Jody Arnold, something he never mentions). Genuinely friendly and cordial to the fans. Signed autographs and spoke to people, although a heel. He realized, I think, this local audience was awestruck to see him here.

BILLY ANDERSON: The obligatory fan favorite who signs autographs, talks to people, poses with them, and is glad to talk wrestling with them if time permits.

EDDIE LOPEZ: A nice guy, who would like to bullshit fans about how he just got back from Texas or Canada, when you knew he hadn't been there. he worked as a butcher full time and could usually be seen cutting meat at a local market by day. Still a colorful individual and a decent sort of wrestler, who would always be willing to talk, even if his conversations tended to be fabricated lies. The sad part is, he was actually good enough to go to some of the places he could have gone to and never did, if he would have applied himself seriously, rather than just run off at the mouth. **(UPCOMING IN A FUTURE ISSUE: MARCIAL BOVEE & CHRIS COLT)**

CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE

RON DOBRATZ is offering his superb photo packed 1973 Record Book/Photo Album for only $2 from 11750 Graystone Circle/Roscoe Il. 61073...**BRIAN TRAMEL** is offering his hilarious TU Rasslin Riot at the bargain rate of 4 monthly issues for $3--1806 Self Circle, Apt. #B Jonesboro, AR 72401...**HOWARD FEINTUCH** presents the news packed Wrestling Insiders for only $1...2851 Country Lane, Ellicott City, Md. 21043...**DICK FREEMAN's** Plain Brown Wrapper is a floppy disc zine- $2 to 130 West Limestone, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387...**JOHN ANTHONY's** Sunday morning Spotlight on Wrestling radio show (1240 AM- 10 AM- Noon in the NY/NJ area) is a show that hardcore fans must get there hands on! For more info see pg. 10...

CHICAGO'S MOST MEMORABLE WRESTLING IN 1960 ✶ ✶ ✶ - by Ronald Dobratz

Bruno Sammartino was the strongest wrestler to appear in Chicago in 1960. The Mighty Atlas was back in Chicago, but he no longer could be considered even the second strongest because of Yukon Eric, Bearcat Wright, Pampero Firpo, Haystacks Calhoun, and Moose Cholak, who came into the ring wearing a moosehead.

More people attended wrestling shows because of Buddy Rogers than any other wrestler.

Chicago's most unusual wrestlers were Johnny Walker, who was called the "Rubberman" because he was able to contort his body into many unbelievable positions to befuddle and gain the advantage in leverage from his opponents, and Prince Nefu Maiava, who would often demonstrate his ability to twirl three foot knives or torches about his body. The Samoan also gave demonstrations to show his feet were impervious to pain by walking on nails or hot coals, and the hardness of his head with his headbutts.

Most Memorable matches;

1) Bearcat Wright and Johnny Valentine wrestled to a 3 minute draw (April 1) which was concluded by midnight curfew, signifying it was Sunday morning.

2) Buddy Rogers and Johnny Valentine wrestled to a bloody "no contest" (December 9) when the referee stopped the match because both wrestlers were bleeding so badly, he feared permanent damage might occur to one of them if it continued much longer.

3) Buddy Rogers pinned Johnny Valentine (December 30) in their rematch after he avoided Valentine's bodyblock that resulted in Johnny's violent collision with the turnbuckle.

4) Yukon Eric evened up his 2-out-of-3 fall title match by forcing champion Pat O'Connor to submit to a bearhug, then lost the final fall when he was dropkicked out of the ring and was counted out.

The year's biggest disappointment occurred for the thousands of fans who came to the International Amphitheatre on April 1 to watch the Bearcat Wright-Johnny Valentine main event and could not buy a ticket for the sold out show. Police were needed to disperse them.

Fans were also disappointed whenever they learned Arnold Skaaland or "Judo" Jack Terry was on the card, because they knew they never won a match, and promoter Fred Kohler never scheduled a bout between them to determine which wrestler was really the "worst".

The best card was held at Comiskey Park on July 29: Johnny Walker beat Abe Jacobs; Red Taylor & Little Beaver won a midget match from Dandy Andy & Bouncing Bernie Burke; The Sheik beat Prince Maiava; Eddie Graham wrestled to a no contest with Sweet Daddy Siki; Chief Big Heart beat Stan Kowalski; Bruno Sammartino lifted 601 lb. Haystacks Calhoun off the mat, before their bout ended in a double count out; Buddy Rogers beat Bearcat Wright; Pat O'Connor beat Yukon Eric.

Top Tag Teams: 1) Red & Lou (Klein) Bastien; 2) Wright & Siki; 3) The Fabulous Kangaroos; 4) Don Curtis & Mark Lewin; 5) Jackie & Don Fargo; 6) Billy Goelz & Johnny Gilbert; 7) Nicoli & Boris Volkoff; 8) Frankie (Buddy Austin) & Johnny (Eric Pedersen) Gabor.

Ten Best Fan Favorites: 1) Pat O'Connor; 2) Bearcat Wright; 3) Karol (Karl Gotch) Krauser; 4) Argentina Rocca; 5) Yukon Eric; 6) Edouard Carpentier; 7) Bruno Sammartino; 8) Chief Big Heart; 9) Haystacks Calhoun; 10) Sweet Daddy Siki.

Ten Most Successful Villains: 1) Buddy Rogers; 2) Johnny Valentine; 3) Crusher Lisowski; 4) Killer Kowalski; 5) Moose Cholak; 6) The Sheik; 7) Skull Murphy; 8) Eddie Graham; 9) Chet Wallick; 10) Johnny Kace;

Best Young Newcomers (not already mentioned) 1) Tito Carreon; 2) Jose Betancourt; 3) Dick Steinborn.

Despite the presence of Rocca, Siki, and Carpentier, Manuel "the Amazing" Zuma, who began his Chicago career in 1959, could be considered the best in agility, dropkicking and other acrobatic aerial maneuvers.

RESULTS--A.K.A. WRESTLING NIRVANA

TRI-STATE WRESTLING ALLIANCE PHILADELPHI CIVIC CENTER SAT SEPT. 15

1. Eddie Gilbert W. Cactus Jack- Solid opener but Eddie not in top form. 2¼*
2. Exotic Adrian Street W Jimmy Valiant. Nice to see Street for 1st time, but nothing much here. Both these hunks of manhood gave our fave ref Scott Dickenson juicy kisses which delighted him to no end. 1*
3. D.C. Drake (with Woman) W Rockin' Rebel (with Baby Doll)-- Wild brawl. Drake always great. Heel turn by Baby Doll 3½* Drake broke ankle.
4. Al Perez & Austin Idol DCOR Kevin Von Erich & Chris Adams--Good spots but nothing memorable. 2 3/4*
5. Mr. Sandman W. J.T. Smith after heel turn by Ref Ron Shaw. 1*
6. Tony Stetson W Johnny Hotbody--Hair vs. Hair match. Good brawl. 3*
7. **ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER DDQ MANNY FERNANDEZ-- AN ALL TIME CLASSIC BRAWL. FIRST ABBIE AND CACTUS JACK DOUBLE JUICED AND MANNY JUMPED IN FOR MUCH OF SAME BEFORE TAKING IT THROUGHOUT ARENA. ABSOLUTE BRUTAL VIOLENCE & PANDEMONIUM. AWESOME. 4½* CROWD IN FRENZY FOLLOWING ACTION AS IT SPREAD ACROSS ARENA. AS GOOD AS BRODY-ABDULLAH IF NOT BETTER.**
8. **TERRY FUNK DDQ JERRY LAWLER--FUNK LEFT A POOL OF BLOOD AT RINGSIDE. GILBERT JUMPED LAWLER WHO WAS SAVED BY IDOL(!) AND THEY ALSO BRAWLED THROUGHOUT ARENA. IDOL THREATENED TO ATTACK JERRY TO ADD TO SUSPENSE. GILBERT & FUNK KEPT RETURNING FROM BACKSTAGE TO CHALLENGE THEM, AND FUNK GOT ON MIKE AND SAID "IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE? I NEED TO GET STITCHED UP!" JUST INCREDIBLE. BACK TO BACK FRENZIED ACTION. 4¼* THESE TWO MATCHES PUT THE NWA TO SHAME.**
9. Rockin' Rebel W Reverse Steel Cage match where 20 indie guys fought to get **into** cage. Wild action with great move off top from phenomenal Cheetah Kid & heel turn by greatly underrated Larry Winters. 3*

CARD NOTES: Best show I've seen in about 3 years. Truly great. Hopefully they can keep up this momentum. Funk & Abdullah remain two of my all-time faves and I really don't care what the hardcores think of Abbie because he popped this place big-time; as wild a brawl as you could dream of seeing...ironically, a real heel crowd that appreciated both him and Funk.

CURFEW

This bulletin's mutating at a wild pace; just couldn't contain it in 8 pages...Just in- a great piece by the legendary Tom Burke for next issue...A great bulletin you can check out for free (Send an SASE or a few stamps) to RALE c/o Kevin J. Lintner 827 N. Queen St. Lancaster, PA. 17603-2739- music, art, poetry etc. & a review of WT&N in next issue...**SPECIAL THANKS TO JOHN ANTHONY OF PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT (WBAB-AM) FOR HIS SUPPORT OF WT&N. THIS INFORMATIVE SHOW IS ON SUNDAYS FROM 10 A.M. TO NOON ON 1240 AM EACH & EVERY WEEK AND CAN BE HEARD IN THE N.Y./N.J. AREA. RECENT GUESTS HAVE INCLUDED MELTZER, KELLER, BEVERLY & VARIOUS WRESTLERS**...I'd like to also thank Gary Fishman for his column; in spite of persistent career, financial, marital, and car problems the dude always comes through!...I recently watched a generic WWF Madison Square Garden card live on cable--it's not even worth the space to go into detail...My company did close down- I'm teaching part-time & searching for another editorial slot-who said life was easy? Your support of WT&N means a great deal to me especially in tough times like this...Check out CINEMA PARADISIO- beautiful film...Thanks to all who contributed this month- what a "staff", huh?...Catch you all next month- if your subscriptions are up please resubscribe!!! Bye for now!